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17 **Plan Regular Patrols**

18 Hicks said, "We're gonna
19 patrol. And, like policemen
20 who are running you down
21 and say, 'You speedin',' then
22 we pull up to them and say,
23 'What's the matter,' and the
24 policeman say, 'He's speed-
25 in!'

26 "And we say, 'We didn't
27 see him speed,' and when
28 the policemen see we armed
29 just like they is—a white
30 man's just like anybody else.
31 They gonna let you go
32 when they see you gonna at-
33 tack them back."

34 The total strength of the
35 Deacons is kept secret by the
36 organization, but outside es-
37 timates have ranged from 5,-
38 000 to 15,000.

39 Hicks has estimated the
40 number of Deacons here at
41

42 175 to 200. He said about
43 75% of them are veterans of
44 the armed services and sev-
45 eral are experts in the use of
46 military weapons.

47 Bogalusa Police Chief
48 Klaetson Knight says the
49 Deacons increase the danger
50 of racial explosion.

51 "My men are watching
52 them closely," he said. "If
53 one of them makes the
54 wrong move he's gonna get
55 his head blown off."

56 Sims prepared Saturday to
57 leave for Los Angeles where
58 he will be interviewed on a
59 television program.

60 "I'd like to start a chapter see any need for a Los An-
61 geles chapter. They got problems out
62 there just like everywhere
63 with that white supremacy else," Hicks said, "but no-
64 stuff everywhere." **body's shooting at anybody**
65 **But Hicks said he does not in Los Angeles.**"

Deacons Chief Defends Sims on Visit to L.A.

Use of Arms Necessary Because of Lack
of Justice for Negro in South, He Says

BY PAUL WEEKS

Times Staff Writer

sat immaculate in a business suit, white and plain tie, sipping coffee in a fashionable bar on the Sunset. It was mid-morning. 41, he is balding. His face is set off with a mustache. He lit one sized cigaret after another. The bartender called him "Mr. Sims" as the others used "Mister" the others. "Sims" is Charles Sims, nice man, and he have been any other strange man visiting Los Angeles.

From Bogalusa

he is Charles Sims, president of the Bogalusa chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, which body has amassed many guns and grenades for any eventualities of southern racial condition. His reserve with others was broken, Sims easily and admitted it the first time he'd had a in three months.

"Sometimes," he said, "I slept with my clothes weeks at a time — and times I didn't even take them off."

committal on the bit the heavy artillery,

admitted the Deacons arms in violation of the concealed weapons

59

Charles Sims
Times photo

Choice Taken

"I would rather be caught in Bogalusa," he said, "with concealed weapons than without them."

The Deacons' arms, he insisted, are defensive—not retaliatory — for he believes southern law enforcement and justice for the Negro are nonexistent.

But federal and state authorities are worried. The Deacons, they say, are playing with matches in a powder magazine. Regardless of his words, how can Sims or his associate leaders ward off explosion when mob passion flares?

"I know every man in the Deacons in Bogalusa. It's a small (pop. 5,000) town. Neither the Communists nor

the FBI could get in. And I'm no Communist. The members respect the leadership. That's good enough."

View Differs

To the law, Sims' assurance of organizational discipline is a fraying thread. He sees it as a steel chain one minute—but then:

"One time the police went into a picket line of our people and they pulled up young girls' dresses with nightsticks and they put lighted cigarettes on their straw 'freedom' hats. I didn't know what was going to happen."

The Deacons' leadership promptly met at Sims' house.

"I took out my gun and put it on the table. I told everybody, 'Put them down there!' They put their guns down. We went down to that picket line and we joined it. There was no more trouble."

While he side-stepped the direct question as to whether the Deacons have machine guns and grenades, he said, regarding how they could possibly be conceived to be "defensive."

"I saw all the blood and combat I ever want to see in the second World War. I saw innocent people killed, too. I

don't want to see no more combat if I can get around it. But if ever there is a line coming at us with little or big weapons, I want to be ready."

But of more immediacy, he said civil rights workers —white or black—couldn't enter Bogalusa without the Deacons' armed cover. "We've protected more white men in Bogalusa than we ever protected colored."

Reviews Life

"But let's go back. I took what I wanted a long time. My folks could of sent me to any school I wanted. I didn't want that."

"I got in the infantry. I moved around. I saw things I never thought about in Bogalusa. I went to the library

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.
Part 1, page 25

Date: 6/14/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: NICK B. WILLIAMS

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LA

Being Investigated

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CONFIDENTIAL
F B I

Date: 6/21/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(RUC)
RE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
aka. "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Re Los Angeles airtel to Burcau, 6/15/65.

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3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (RM)(AM)
1 - Los Angeles

REC-70

MIB/jlm CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/861/V 7-16-80
(6) REASON - FCIM 11, 1-3, 4-2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-21-85 EX 102

157-11866
10 JUN 26 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: 274 WMB

Sent _____ M Per _____

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Date: 6/24/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

REC-72

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-New) (P)
SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
HOMER, LOUISIANA, CHAPTER
RM

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are original and
eight copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth information
concerning captioned organization. Copies of this memorandum
are being disseminated to ICG and Secret Service.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
2 - New Orleans (157-New)

WPJQ/cm
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-08 BY SP/sgf

REC-72

157-1166-16

15 JUL 1 1965

EX-301

15 JUL 1965

AGENCY: FBI, NEW ORLEANS

DATE ISSUED: 6/29/65

HOW FORW: RIS

BT:

1cc 828 AB

att-mel

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1cc & cc LHM
SCS RB

15 JUL 1965

69 JUL 1965

Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____

Special Agent in Charge

39



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 24, 1965

~~DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE~~
~~HOMER, LOUISIANA CHAPTER~~

On June 10, 1965, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicated that a Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been formed in Homer, Louisiana. [REDACTED] indicated that the organization, exclusively composed of local Negro males, had originally been formed by Negroes in Bogalusa and Jonesboro, Louisiana, as a self-protection group. [REDACTED] continued to explain that the organization was active in areas where Civil Rights activity had either actually or was presumed to potentially precipitate violence against Negroes by local white segregationists. 17 17

[REDACTED] said that the specific purpose of the group was to arm themselves and to "meet force with force" in such instances as local white men employed force or "terror tactics" against Negroes. [REDACTED] was emphatic in stressing that the organization intended no aggressive or violent action against any individual or group, and that no member of the organization would employ any type of force unless such action was initiated against him first.

[REDACTED] furnished a list of Negro male individuals who are currently members of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the organization and the positions they occupy, as follows:

GEORGE BOOD	Homer, Louisiana	President
FRED LEWIS	Holiday Stop, Lisbon, Louisiana	Vice President
OTIS CHATMAN	Homer, Louisiana	Secretary
JOE LESTER GREEN	Homer, Louisiana	Financial Secretary
ROY SMITH	Homer, Louisiana	Treasurer
	Homer, Louisiana	Member

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1/jm/jl

— — ENCLOSURE

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10 This document contains neither recommendations nor
11 conclusions of the F.B.I. It is the property of the F.B.I and
12 is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be
13 distributed outside your agency.
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CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

FORWARD IN CELLOPHANE ENVELOPE

DO NOT MARK OR DEFACE IT IN ANY WAY !

Congress of the U.S.

House of Reps.

Washington, D.C.

June 30th, 1965

Congressional Liaison
Office
Federal Bur. of Investigation

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.
Please investigate the statements
contained therein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, returning the enclosed corre-
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

M. C.

James H. Morrison
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C.

REC-28/51-2466-19

1 JUL 8 1965

ENCLOSURE

ack w/ 100

RECORDED CORRESPONDENCE

TRUE COPY

La.
June 23, 1965

b7C

Urgent

Rep. Jimmy Morrison
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

Urgently request you ask Justice Dept. to look into Matter of "Deacons For Defense" in Bogalusa, one Charles Sims, reported to be president. They are supposed to have Machine guns, and hand grenades. I live seven miles from that arnsnal, in the hands of a bunch of idoitic Negroes, and I want that investigated!

Would appreciate hearing from you immediately that you are looking into this.

Sincerely yours

159-2366-10

1. Wrigg
2. ~~Re: Jimmy Morrison~~
3. Ry. Jimmy Morrison
4. Washington, D.C.
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b7C

SA

June 23, 1965

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Dear Sir,

urgently request you ask Justice Dept
to look into matter of "Deacons for Defense"
in Bogalusa, one Charles Sims, reported
to be president. They are supposed to have
Machine guns and hand grenades.
live seven miles from that arsenal
in the hands of a bunch of racist N
and I want that investigated!

Moved appreciate hearing from you
immediately that you are looking into.

Sincerely yours

b7C

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REC-28

151-2466-11

July 6, 1965

Honorable James H. Morrison
House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP/sgk/jf

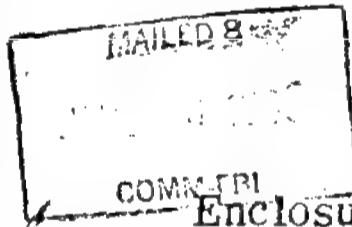
I received your communication of June 30th and the
enclosed letter from [REDACTED] b7c

While I would like to be of assistance to your constituent, information contained in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. She may be assured, however, that this Bureau is ever aware of its responsibilities, and whenever a violation of a law within our jurisdiction occurs, we will make every effort to continue to discharge our obligations with the highest degree of thoroughness and dispatch.

I am returning [REDACTED]'s letter with this
communication.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



1 - New Orleans - Enclosures (2) b7c

NOTE: Our relations with Congressman Morrison have been generally cordial. A prior communication from [REDACTED] to this Bureau on 5/4/65 was not acknowledged because of critical remarks regarding the FBI's work in the civil rights field. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation regarding Deacons for Defense and Justice to determine its activities and leadership. It is a Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas as apparently its spokesman. He has advised Negroes that they should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist Negroes when Negroes are being arrested.

66 REC 29 1965

(continued on next page)

W.M. BROWN TELETYPE UNIT

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(a)

REC'D-READING ROOM
JUL 6 1965
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10 Honorable James H. Morrison
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12

13 Fees and dues of the group are used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment
14 and literature. Thomas claims they have 50 chapters in four Southern states.
15 The organization was formed as a protective measure for Negroes who are not
16 suitably protected by local law enforcement agencies. A Charles L. Sims
17 identified himself as head of this group.
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7/19/65

12 Airtel

13 1 - Mr. J. L. Martin

14
15
16 To: SACS, New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc.)
17 Birmingham (157-1446) (Enc.)
18 Charlotte (157-882) (Enc.)
19 [REDACTED] Jackson (157-3465) (Enc.)
20 Jacksonville (157-new) (Enc.)
21 Mobile (157-1017) (Enc.)
22 Savannah (157-731) (Enc.)
23

24 From: Director, FBI (157-2400)

25 [REDACTED] DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
26 RACIAL MATTERS
27 CO: NEW ORLEANS

28 RepAirtel to New Orleans dated 2/26/65 NOairtel to
29 Bureau 3-26-65 and HGTeltype 7/14/65.

30 Enclosed for each office is one copy of a "Wall Street
31 Journal" article dated 7/12/65, entitled "Here Dixie Negroes
32 Buy Arms to Retaliate Against White Attacks."

33 For the information of Offices receiving this communica-
34 tion, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Negro organ-
35 ization incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana with
36 headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The Deacons has as one of
37 its purposes, the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan
38 violence and recently has been active in racial demonstrations
39 in Bogalusa, Louisiana. In addition to the enclosed article,
40 it has received wide publicity. It has been reported in news
41 articles, such as the enclosed, that the Deacons has 50 to 55
42 chapters in several states; it allegedly has 5,000 to 15,000
43 members and has acquired a large number of weapons. Bureau in-
44 vestigation to date has not substantiated apparent exaggerated
45 claims. At early organizational meetings in Bogalusa, Louisiana,
46 in February, 1965, Deacon leaders boasted that they had sources
47 who could furnish large amounts of weapons and ammunition including
48 automatic weapons. It is necessary therefore, that we obtain
49 complete facts as to the organization's actual strength.

50 JLM:pjn
51 (16)

52 58 JUL 20 1965

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SEE NOTE 19 JUL 20 1965

MAIL ROOM [V] TELETYPE UNIT []

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6 Airtel to SAC, New Orleans
7 RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
8 157-2466
9

10 ReNOairtel of 3/26/65, sets forth leads to interview
11 [REDACTED] of the Deacons in an effort to obtain
12 details concerning membership, arms and activities. New Orleans
13 immediately conduct interviews of Deacons' [REDACTED] with the
14 purposes of obtaining complete information regarding the organiza-
15 tion and discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts.
16

b7D

17 It is noted that the recipient offices, except New Orleans,
18 advised by teletypes 7/14-15/65, that the organization did not exist in
19 [REDACTED] their territories. Nevertheless, all offices receiving this
20 communication will immediately conduct appropriate investigation to
21 determine if there are any Deacons' Chapters in their respective
22 Divisions. Promptly advise the Bureau of the existence of any
23 Deacons' Chapters or attempts to organize. Determine leadership,
24 strength of membership, activities, and arms acquired. Be
25 especially alert for any large supply of arms and their source.
26 Disseminate all pertinent information to Army Intelligence and
27 Secret Service, locally. Promptly submit letterhead memoranda
28 concerning developments.
29

30 New Orleans, as Office of origin, is instructed to
31 submit an investigative report within thirty days which should
32 include results of all investigation to date.
33

34
35 NOTE:

36 Memorandum, Bungardner to Sullivan, dated 7/14/65,
37 answered an inquiry of the Director as to the accuracy of the
38 "Wall Street Journal's" article, 7/12/65. This organization has
39 been under continuous investigation since January, 1965, and
40 regular dissemination has been made to the Intelligence Community,
41 Secret Service, the Department and the Community Relations Service.
42 We are continuing to follow closely this investigation and believe
43 that further intensified investigation being directed by this
44 airtel is merited.
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Date: 7/12/65

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-89 BY SP1/jew

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)
SUBJECT: ① DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

For information of the Bureau,
[redacted] telephonically advised

[redacted] advised he had information from members of the Deacons for Defense and Justice that they had 50 or 55 chapters either already in operation or being put in operation in Louisiana, and they were extending this into Alabama and Mississippi.

[redacted] stated he had talked to members of this organization in Jonesboro, La., and this is where he got his information, but in talking to other people, they advised this organization was not as big as the members claimed it to be, and he was going to Bogalusa, La., to try to verify this.

He inquired as to whether the New Orleans Office could give him any information and he was advised "no comment".

C. WICK

3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM)
1 - Jackson (Info) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Info) (RM)
2 - New Orleans

REC-57

7-21-65 C-1

7-14-65 C-1

JTS:sam

(8)

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

SUBJ. CONT'D

Int. B. Section

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

37 W. C. Sullivan

1 - Belmont
1 - Mohr

DATE: 7-15-65

12 PROM F. J. Baumgardner

1 - DeLoach
1 - Rosen
1 - Sullivan

13 SUBJECT:

14 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
15 RACIAL MATTERS1 - Bland 1 - Baumgardner
1 - Phillips19 The Director and Mr. Tolson have inquired as to the
20 accuracy of an article in the 7-12-65 issue of "The Wall Street
21 Journal" headed "More Dixie Negroes Buy Arms to Retaliate Against
22 White Attacks." The article (attached) primarily concerns the
23 Deacons of Defense and Justice which is an all-Negro secret
24 organization centered in Louisiana with headquarters at Jonesboro.25 Background of Organization26 The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons dated 3-5-65
27 in the State of Louisiana gave the purposes of the organization
28 as including: to educate citizens, especially minority groups,
29 in the Constitution and laws of the United States; to teach the
30 obligations of citizenship; and to teach the defense of property and
31 personal rights by "any and all honorable and legal means." At
32 early organizational meetings, leaders discussed purposes as
33 being the acquisition of weapons by Negroes in an effort to defend
34 themselves against Klan violence and to provide protection not
35 provided by local authorities. The Deacons Vice-President and
36 organizer, Ernest Thomas, also told Negroes that they should arm
37 and form roving patrols to assist any Negroes being arrested. The
38 Deacons have worked closely with James Farmer and his organization,
39 the Congress of Racial Equality, and with the Bogalusa Voters
40 League, a local civil rights organization. The Deacons have been
41 active in the recent demonstrations in Bogalusa. The Deacons have
42 been the subject of a continuing Bureau investigation since
43 January, 1965, and we have been regularly disseminating information
44 concerning this organization to the Department, military intelligence,
45 Secret Service and the Community Relations Service.46 Analysis of Article47 **ENCLOSURE** The following is based upon information in Bureau files
48 including a current check with the field. The article is generally
49 accurate in respect to the purposes of the organization, the

50 Enc.

51 SFP:pdb

52 (9)

REC 4

53 CONTINUED - OVER

54 3 JUL 23 1965

55 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

56 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

57 DATE 7-15-65 BY SP1/R4/fv

58 56 JUL 27 1965

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6 Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
7 Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

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10 factors which motivated its start, its close relationship with
11 other groups such as the Congress of Racial Equality and the
12 possession of firearms and walkie-talkie radio equipment by its
13 members. There are, however, a number of inaccuracies and
14 exaggerations in the article relating to the following: The
15 article reports claims by some Deacons leaders of having over
16 50 chapters including some in neighboring states. Bureau investi-
17 gation reveals chapters exist only in Jonesboro, Bogalusa and
18 Homer, Louisiana; none in neighboring states. Article reports
19 membership estimates as between 5,000 and 15,000. Bureau investi-
20 gation indicates this highly exaggerated and membership probably
21 no more than a few hundred.
22

23
24 Article reports Deacons possess firearms and this generally
25 borne out by our investigation including actual observations by
26 Bureau Agents. In this connection, it should be noted that most
27 rural southerners possess firearms and that the carrying of rifles
28 and pistols in rural areas is commonplace by both whites and Negroes.
29 Such firearms and ammunition are readily available from local
30 hardware, sporting goods stores, mail order houses and gun dealers.
31 The carrying of firearms in Louisiana is permissible provided the
32 weapons are not concealed on the person. A significant comment was
33 made by a Deacons member, [REDACTED], who said that Deacons members
34 do not actually engage in armed patrols but that the story was
35 circulated concerning such patrols in order to discourage Klansmen
36 from causing trouble in Negro sections. Article reports that
37 Bureau Agents are monitoring walkie-talkie transmissions of the
38 Deacons. Although our New Orleans Office has equipment in Bogalusa
39 capable of monitoring the Deacons walkie-talkies, no monitoring has
40 been done of the Deacons.
41

42 Article reports a Deacons chapter in Varnado, seven miles
43 north of Bogalusa, to protect the widow of Oneal Moore, a Negro
44 Deputy Sheriff slain June, 1965. Our investigation in the Varnado
45 area including interviews with the Moore widow has not established
46 that any protection is being undertaken by the Deacons and there
47 is no known chapter located there.
48

49 OBSERVATIONS:
50

51 Inasmuch as the Deacons were apparently organized for
52 defensive purposes as a retaliation to Klan acts against Negroes,
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3 Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan

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5 Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

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9 it is not surprising that Deacons leaders would exaggerate its
10 strength for the purpose of discouraging violence against Negroes
11 and to help encourage increased membership. A striking illustratio
12 of the exaggeration as to the number of chapters is the fact that
13 an article by Roy Reed appeared in the 6/6/65 issue of "The New
14 York Times" which quoted Deacons leader Thomas as saying they had
15 50-55 chapters in various stages of organization. On 7/12/65
16

17 [REDACTED] had reports of 50-55 chapters
18 and contradictory information that the Deacons is not as big as
19 claimed. He was given a "no comment" reply to his inquiry for
20 information concerning the Deacons. This surely illustrates the
21 uncertainty as to the actual facts notwithstanding newspaper
22 accounts.

23 RECOMMENDATION:

24
25
26 This is for your information. We will continue to
27 follow closely this investigation and keep you advised of pertinent
28 developments.

F B I

Date: 7/15/65
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gal 147-1680
REASON - FORM 11, 1-2
DATE OF REVIEW 7-15-85

ReJNtel to Bureau, 7/14/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of
LHM. Two copies LHM furnished New Orleans Division.

AGENCY: ACI, CNI, OSI; SEC. SER. 1
MTP: ISD, GRD, RGD

(C)

In the event any additional pertinent information
is received concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice,
the Bureau and New Orleans will be immediately advised.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)
2 - New Orleans (Encls. 2)
2 - Jackson
HEH:cj
(7)

REC-23

157-2466-24

17 JUL 17 1965

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

CC-WH TEL 3000

Sent CONFIDENTIAL M Per _____

56 APPROVED
57 56 JUL 27 1965
58 Special Agent in Charge

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7 In Reply, Please Refer to
8 File No.

9
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11 Jackson, Mississippi
12 July 15, 1965

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16 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
17 RACIAL MATTERS

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21 Confidential sources who have furnished reliable infor-
22 mation in the past and who are familiar with the activities of
23 civil rights organizations in Jackson, Mississippi, have advised
24 that they know of no organizations of the "Deacons for Defense
25 and Justice" in the State of Mississippi.

26 On July 14, 1965, [REDACTED] 472
473

27 [REDACTED] advised that he had recently made a specific
28 check concerning the possibilities of the "Deacons for Defense and
29 Justice" operating in Mississippi, and found no evidence that
30 [REDACTED] they were. He stated that he made a special effort to determine
31 if there might be any such organization in the Mississippi counties
32 neighboring Bemidji, Louisiana, but found no evidence that this
33 organization was operating in any of these counties.

34 On July 14, 1965, Charles Evers, Field Secretary,
35 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
36 Jackson, Mississippi, advised in connection with a comment
37 attributed to him in an article in "The Wall Street Journal"
38 of July 12, 1965, that he had referred to the Negroes in Mississippi
39 as "the ones saving the selves from violence and it was these
40 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that he stated he "was glad were around". He said
41 in view of no groups of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice"
42 in operation in Mississippi.

43
44
45 This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
46 of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to you.
47 It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your
48 agency.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-00 BY SP/1844

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- ENCLOSURE -

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATED SECTION**

JUL 1 ' 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI SAVANNAH

6:52 PMEST URGENT 7/14/65 CJD

TOY-RECTOR, I

FROM SAVANNAH /157-731/

25 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE- RACIAL MATTERS.

27 RE:CE TEL CALL THIS DATE, PERTAINING TO ARTICLE, WALL
28
29 ST. JOURNAL, JULY TWELVE LAST.

31 SAVANNAH KNOWS OF NO ACTIVITY CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION IN
32
33 DIVISION. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO DETERMINE IF IN EXISTENCE THIS
34
35 DIVISION. AM COPY CE FOR INFO.

38 12
39 WA...JPM
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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1 FBI WASH DC DATE 7-16-80 BY SP/REC/80 151-2416-25
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| Mr. Gale | _____ |
| Mr. Persen | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
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27 PAGE TWO
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29 MEETING OF THE DDJ'S HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA.
30

31 [REDACTED] STATED THAT FOURTEEN NEGROES ATTENDED THIS MEETING.
32

33 ON MARCH TEN SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED] AND

34 [REDACTED] BOGALUSA, LA., ADVISED THAT THERE ARE FOURTEEN
35 MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN THE BOGALUSA BRANCH OF THE
36 DDJ. b7D

37 ON JANUARY TEN SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]
38 HOMER, LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE DDJ ADVISED THAT THERE
39 WERE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ INCLUDING HIMSELF IN
40 HOMER, LOUISIANA.

41 B. MEMBERSHIP

42 ON JUNE THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE, CHARLES SIMS
43 APPEARED ON THE LOUIS LOMAX TELEVISION SHOW, CHANNEL

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22 PAGE THREE

23
24 ELEVEN, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, STATED THERE ARE
25
26 FROM FIFTY TO SIXTY CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ'S IN THREE
27
28 OR FOUR STATES.

29
30 AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES
31
32 TIMES ON JUNE THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE WITH A DATELINE
33
34 OF BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, STATED IN PART THAT EARNEST
35
36 THOMAS OF JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, AN OFFICIAL AND
37
38 FULL-TIME ORGANIZER OF THE DEACONS, HAD TOLD
39
40 NEWSMEN THAT THERE ARE FIFTY TO FIFTYFIVE CHAPTERS
41
42 IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA. FUND RAISING
43
44 UNITS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW
45
46 YORK AND OTHER LARGE CITIES.

47
48 IN THE CONTINUATION OF THIS ARTICLE,
49
50 ROBERT HICKS OF BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA ESTIMATED THE
51
52 NUMBER OF DEACONS IN THE BOGALUSA, LA. AREA AT BETWEEN ONE HUNDRED
53
54 END PAGE THREE

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12 SEVENTYFIVE AND TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS.
13

14 THE ARTICLE FURTHER STATED THAT AT THE SAME TIME
15 OTHER LOUISIANA UNITS WERE BEING ESTABLISHED IN
16 BATON ROUGE, NEW IBERIA AND PLAQUEMINE. STATED
17
18 ~~TOTAL~~ STRENGTH OF THE DEACONS IS KEPT SECRET
19 BY THE ORGANIZATION BUT OUTSIDE ESTIMATES HAVE
20 RANGED FROM FIVE THOUSAND TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND
21 ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.
22

23 C. CHAPTERS
24

25 AT THE PRESENT TIME IN THE STATE OF
26 LOUISIANA THERE ARE THREE CHAPTERS KNOWN TO THE
27 NEW ORLEANS DIVISION. THESE CHAPTERS ARE LOCATED
28 AT JONESBORO, BOGALUSA AND HOMER, LOUISIANA.
29

30 AS NOTED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
31 APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES DATED JUNE
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33 END PAGE FOUR
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12 THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE, ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS WERE REPORTEDLY BEING
13
14 ESTABLISHED IN BATON ROUGE, NEW IBERIA AND PLAQUEMINE.
15

16 D. ARMS
17

18 ON FEBRUARY TWENTYTWO SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]

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b7D

20 [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT
21
22 EARNEST THOMAS (DDJ) JONESBORO, LOUISIANA AT A
23
24 MEETING OF THE DDJ IN BOGALUSA HAD STATED THAT
25
26 NEGROES SHOULD BUY SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS SUCH AS
27
28 THREE ZERO SIX CALIBER RIFLES. THOMAS SUGGESTED
29
30 THAT TWELVE OR SIXTEEN GAUGE SHOT GUNS WOULD ALSO
31
32 BE USEFUL.
33

34 THOMAS STATED THAT HIS GROUP HAD CONTACTS
35
36 IN CHICAGO AND HOUSTON FOR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND
37
38 MENTIONED PURCHASING A FIFTY AND THIRTY CALIBER
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41 END PAGE FIVE
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16 PAGE SIX
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18 MACHINE GUN.
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20 ON MARCH TEN SIXTYFIVE ROYAN BURRIS,
21
22 MEMBER OF THE DDJ AT BOGALUSA, STATED IN AN ARTICLE
23
24 APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT EARNEST
25
26 THOMAS OF JONESBORO, AN OFFICIAL AND FULL-TIME
27
28 ORGANIZER OF THE DEACONS, STATED THAT THE DEACONS
29
30 HAVE MACHINE GUNS AND HAND GRENADES.
31

32 ON MARCH TWENTYFOUR SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]

33 [REDACTED] → AT JONESBORO,
34
35 LOUISIANA, ADVISED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE DDJ
36
37 HAVE FIREARMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE AND FOR PROTECTION
38
39 AGAINST PERSONS POSSIBLY CONNECTED WITH THE KU
40
41 KLUK KLAN.
42

b7C

b7D

43 [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ
44
45 DO NOT ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN ARMED PATROLS BUT THAT
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47

48 END PAGE SIX
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18 THE STORY CONCERNING THESE PATROLS WAS GIVEN OUT
19
20 TO DISCOURAGE KLANSMEN AND PERSONS OF THAT TYPE
21
22 FROM GOING INTO THE NEGRO SECTIONS CAUSING TROUBLE.
23

24 AGENTS OF THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION HAVE
25
26 OBSERVED SIDEARMS, RIFLES AND SHOT GUNS, BUT NO MACHINE-
27
28 GUNS IN THE POSSESSION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF
29
30 THE DDJ IN BOGALUSA AND JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

31
32 E. SOURCES OF ARMS
33

34 INVESTIGATION BY BOTH THE CHICAGO AND
35
36 HOUSTON DIVISION OF THE FBI HAVE FAILED TO DETERMINE
37
38 ANY SOURCE FROM WHICH THE DDJ'S WERE SECURING
39
40 MACHINE GUNS OR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

41
42 THE THREE KNOWN CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ'S ARE LOCATED IN
43
44 RURAL AREAS IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA. IN THESE VARIOUS
45
46 END PAGE SEVEN
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12 PAGE EIGHT
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22 RURAL AREAS THE CARRYING OF RIFLES AND PISTOLS ARE
23
24 COMMONPLACE BY THE CITIZENRY, BOTH WHITE AND NEGRO.
25
26 FIREARMS SUCH AS RIFLES AND PISTOLS AND AMMUNITION ARE
27
28 READILY AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL HARDWARE, SPORTING GOOD
29
30 STORES, MAIL ORDER HOUSES, AND GUN DEALERS. THE CARRYING
31
32 OF FIREARMS IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA IS PERMISSIBLE
33
34 PROVIDING THESE WEAPONS ARE NOT CONCEALED ON THE
35
36 PERSON.
37

38 BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE
39
40 MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ'S IT IS BELIEVED
41
42 THAT WITHOUT OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT PURCHASING
43
44 OF WEAPONS ON A LARGE SCALE COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED
45
46 BY THE DDJ'S.

b7C

47 II. ██████████ ALLEGED MEMBER IN ✓
48
49
50 THE DDJ'S
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52 END PAGE EIGHT
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18 PAGE NINE
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20 INVESTIGATION TO DATE IN THE BOGALUSA AREA HAS
21
22 NOT ESTABLISHED █████'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE DDJ'S.
23

24 IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT █████ IS A STATE
25
26 DEFENDANT INVOLVING THE ASSAULT OF █████.
27

b7C

28 INTERVIEW HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OF █████
29

30 III. JONESBORO CHAPTER OF DDJ'S
31

32 THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FILED MARCH NINE
33
34 SIXTYFIVE WITH THE LOUISIANA SECRETARY OF STATE SHOW
35
36 THE CORPORATE DOMICILE OF DDJ AS JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.
37

38 IV. ALLEGED MONITORING OF THE WALKIE-
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40 END PAGE NINE
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23 PAGE TEN
24
25 TALKIES OF THE DDJ BY FBI.

26 THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION HAS EQUIPMENT
27
28 ~~OGALUSA~~, LOUISIANA CAPABLE OF MONITORING THE
29
30 WALKIE TALKIES OF THE DDJ, KLAN AND CITIZENS BAND RADIOS,
31
32 HOWEVER, NO MONITORING HAS BEEN DONE OF THE DDJ.

33
34 V. ALLEGED PROTECTION OF THE WIDOW OF
35
36 O'NEAL MOORE

37
38 INVESTIGATION IN THE VARNADO AREA WHERE
39
40 O'NEAL MOORE RESIDED AS WELL INTERVIEWS OF O'NEAL
41
42 MOORE'S WIFE HAS NOT ESTABLISHED THAT ANY PROTECTION
43
44 IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE DDJ'S IN THE VARNADO,
45
46 LOUISIANA AREA. IN ADDITION THERE IS NO KNOWN
47
48 UNIT OF THE DDJ'S LOCATED IN VARNADO, LOUISIANA.

49
50 END PAGE TEN.
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21 PAGE ELEVEN
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23 BASED ON THE FACTS AVAILABLE BY INVESTIGATION
24
25 TO DATE THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE WHICH
26
27 ORIGINATED IN JONESBORO, LOUISIANA THIS YEAR, HAS
28
29 ATTRACTED A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF THE NEGRO RACE BUT
30
31 THE CLAIMS BY NUMEROUS ORGANIZERS THAT THERE ARE
32
33 BETWEEN FIVE TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND APPEARED TO BE
34
35 GROSSLY EXAGGERATED. AS RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS,
36
37 MARCHES AND ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE
38
39 THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, IT CAN BE
40
41 ANTICIPATED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WILL INCREASE.
42
43 IT CAN READILY BE SEEN FROM INFORMATION DEVELOPED
44
45 THAT THE CHAPTERS ARE GENERALLY FORMED WHENEVER THERE
46
47 IS ANY SORT OF RACIAL ACTIVITY OR DEMONSTRATION IN THE
48
49 PARTICULAR LOCALS, AND WITH THE INCREASE IN PARADES
50
51 AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE NEGROES IN VARIOUS CITIES
52
53 END PAGE ELEVEN
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27 PAGE TWELVE

28
29 ~~THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF LOUISIANA THE ORGANIZERS~~
30
31 ~~WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH CHAPTERS~~
32
33 ~~IN THESE PARTICULAR CITIES. AS INFORMATION~~
34
35 ~~IS DEVELOPED THE BUREAU WILL BE PROMPTLY ADVISED.~~
36

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39 WA... NHH

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41 FBI WASH DC

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43 TU AND CLR

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47 C. Phillips

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

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FBI BIRMGHAM

13 159 PM CST URGENT 7-14-65 WCR

14 15 TO DIRECTOR

16 17 FROM BIRMINGHAM /157-1446/ 2P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 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PAGE TWO
CONCERNING ARTICLE JULY TWELVE LAST ISSUE OF WALL STREET

JOURNAL, BY FRED L. ZIMMERMAN, JOURNAL WRITER, CAPTIONED "RACE
AND VIOLENCE", BIRMINGHAM NOTES MAJOR PORTION DEALS WITH RACIAL
SITUATION IN LOUISIANA. BIRMINGHAM NOT AWARE OF ACTUAL RACIAL
SITUATION IN STATES OTHER THAN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. RACIAL
SITUATION IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION APPEARS TO BE CALM WITH VARIOUS
GROUPS, NEGRO AND WHITE, ATTEMPTING TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO
RACIAL PROBLEMS THAT WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED.

BIRMINGHAM HAS NO KNOWLEDGE THAT NEGROES IN BIRMINGHAM
DIVISION PLAN TO RESORT TO VIOLENT TACTICS OR FOLLOW AN "EYE FOR AN
EYE" THEORY. BIRMINGHAM IS OF OPINION THAT MOST INDIVIDUALS AND
GROUPS IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION DESIRE TO AVOID ALL RACIAL VIOLENCE
AND ARE EARNESTLY SEEKING A PEACEFUL ANSWER TO RACE PROBLEMS
RATHER THAN THE FORMING OF "ARMED ORGANIZATIONS" AS MENTIONED
IN ARTICLE.

COPY BEING FORWARDED TO NEW ORLEANS AIRMAIL REGISTERED.

END

QWA JMS

FBI WASH DC

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 15 1965

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI JKN MISS

10:57 PM CST URGENT 7-14-65 MJK

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : JACKSON (157-3465)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

RENOTELEPHONE CALL TO JACKSON JULY FOURTEEN,

SIXTYFIVE CONCERNING ARTICLE IN JULY TWELVE NINETEEN

SIXTYFIVE, ISSUE OF "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL" CONCERNING

CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION.

THE JACKSON DIVISION HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION

TO INDICATE THAT THERE IS ANY CHAPTER OR MEMBER OF THE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE IN MISS. INFORMANTS AND

SOURCES WITHIN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN JACKSON, MISS.,

CONTACTED ON JULY ELEVEN SIXTYFIVE RELATIVE TO CAPTIONED

ORGANIZATION STATED THEY KNEW OF NO SUCH ORGANIZATION IN

THE STATE OF MISS.

ON JULY FOURTEEN SIXTYFIVE

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157-2466-28

ADVISED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY MADE A SPECIFIC CHECK CONCERNING

END PAGE ONE

34 AUG 5 1965

cc. Phillips

9 JUL 29 1965

EX-113

7-12-1965, p.
157-2466-28

157-2466-28

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

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12 PAGE TWO
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17 THE POSSIBILITIES OF CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION OPERATING
18 IN MISS., AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE. HE STATED
19 THAT HE MADE A SPECIFIC EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF THERE MIGHT
20 BE ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTIES NEIGHBORING
21 BOGALUSA, LA., BUT FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS ORGANIZATION
22 WAS IN ANY OF THESE COUNTIES.

23 CHARLES EVERE ADVISED ON JULY FOURTEEN INSTANT CONCERNING
24 THE ABOVE ARTICLE THAT THE WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER ONLY
25 RECORDED A PART OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH EVERE. EVERE STATED HE
26 HAD REFERRED TO THE NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI WHO WERE DEFENDING
27 THEMSELVES FROM VIOLENCE, THESE INDIVIDUALS EVERE STATED HE
28 WAS GLAD THEY WERE AROUND. STATED HE KNEW OF NO CAPTIONED GROUPS
29 IN EXISTENCE IN MISSISSIPPI.

30 AIR MAIL COPY TO NEW ORLEANS.

31 END

32 WA HFL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

33 FBI WASH DC

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 14 1968

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

14FBI CHARLT

1406

14FBI CHARLT

16 PM

URGENT 7-14-65

DKR ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP/PSL/H

18 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

19 FROM: CHARLOTTE (157-882)

24 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTER.

28 RE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE CALL TODAY PERTAINING TO

30 ARTICAL, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, MONDAY JULY TWELVE LAST.

32 PAGE ONE, ABOVE ISSUE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, CONTAINS

34 STATEMENT DEACONS HAVE FORMED GROUPS IN SEVERAL TOWNS IN

36 S.C. AND IN TWO TWNS IN WESTERN N.C.

38 DURHAM MORNING HERALD, DAILY NEWSPAPER, DURHAM, N.C.,

40 IN JULY ONE LAST ISSUE REPORTED ON NATIONAL CONVENTION CORE

42 WHICH TOOK PLACE DURHAM, N.C., JULY ONE THROUGH FIVE LAST.

44 ARTICLE REPORTED THAT JAMES FARMER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF

46 CORE, HAD STATED HE WOULD NOT CONDEMN THE DEACONS ORGANIZATION

48 DESCRIBED AS A MOVEMENT WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN ORGANIZED

50 IN THE DEEP SOUTH. DEACONS, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, ARE ARMED

52 VIGILANTE GROUPS SET UP TO PROTECT NEGRO NEIGHBORHOODS AGAINST

54 WHITE MILITANTS AND INADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT.

56 END PAGE ONE

66 AUG 4 1965

114-11477-105
114-11477-105

9 JUL 29 1965

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9 PAGE TWO
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12 CE 157-882
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15 JULY THREE LAST ISSUE DERHAM MORNING HEARLD CONTAINS
16
17 ARTICLE SHOWING ERNEST THOMAS OF MISS., A CHARTER MEMBER OF
18
19 DEACONS, APPEARED BEFORE CORE CONVENTION AND BLASTED KKK
20
21 AND REDNECK TECHNIQUES. HE DECLARED PERIOD OF NEGRO NON-
22
23 VIOLENCE IS OVER. THOMAS CHARGED WHITE MEN HAVE GIVEN NEGRO
24
25 NEW LAWS AND PRIVILEGES BUT NEGROES HAVE BEEN BEATEN WHEN
26
27 THEY TRIED TO USE THEM. HE SAID WE MUST HAVE THE DEACONS
28
29 TO LET THE KLAN KNOW THAT NEGROES AS A WHOLE ARE NOT NON-
30
31 VIOLENT. ARTICLE SHOWS THAT CORE DIRECTOR JAMES FARMER
32
33 VOICED HIS SUPPORT OF DEACONS. ALSO, DR. LONNIE X, BLACK
34
35 MUSLIM MINISTER OF WASHINGTON, ALSO SUPPORTED DEACONS.
36
37

38 NO ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING CORE CONVENTION OR INFORMATION
39 RECEIVED AS TO ANY CHAPTERS OF CAPTIONED ORGINIZATION WITH
40
41 CHARLOTTE TERRITORY AND NO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INFORMANTS
42
43 OR SOURCES THAT SUCH CHAPTERS OR UNITS EXIST.
44

45 LOGICAL SOURCES AND INFORMANTS BEING CONTACTED IN EFFORT
46
47 TO DETERMINE IF ANY UNITS OF THIS ORGANIZATION DO EXIST
48
49 WITHIN CHARLOTTE DIVISION.

50 INFORMATION CONCERNINGCORE CONVENTION, INCLUDING FORE-
51 GOING INFORMATION RE DEACONS SUBMITTED IN LHM BY CHARLOTTE
52

53 END PAGE TWO
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9 PAGE THREE
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1 JULY TWELVE LAST CAPTIONED "NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CORE,
2 DURHAM, N.C., JULY ONE-FIVE, NINETEENSIXTYFIVE, RACIAL
3 MATTERS."

4
5
6 COPY TO SAVANNAH AIR MAIL.
7
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9 CIZXX
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14 CORR PAGE ONE LLNE 5 WORD 5 SHD. BE TOWNS
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16 CORR PAGE TWO LINE 1 WOREXXOXXWORD 5 SHD. BE DURHAM
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7/14/1965
FBI
WFO: E 13 AM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 14 1965

FBI MOBILE

TELETYPE *fr*

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

11 947 PM CST URGENT 7/14/65 VFP

12 TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS

13 FROM MOBILE 157-1017/

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

REAGONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

RE PHONE CALL FROM ASAC SYLVESTER, NEW ORLEANS

TODAY, REFERENCE ARTICLE IN WALL STREET JOURNAL JULY TWELVE

LAST CAPTIONED " RACE AND VIOLENCE".

MOBILE HAS DEVELOPED NO INFORMATION TO REFLECT THAT

ANY CHAPTER INSTANT ORGANIZATION IN EXISTENCE MOBILE DIVISION.

AGENTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN ALERT FOR INFO INDICATING

FORMATION SUCH GROUPS. INFORMANTS AND SOURCES ARE BEING

LIKewise ALERTED AND IF ANY POSITIVE INFO RECEIVED, BUREAU

AND NEW ORLEANS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

END

WA LRA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

FBI WASH DC

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 *sp1/psd/jfr* REC 25

NO RJB

FBI NEW ORLS

TU ALL CLEG-BXI H1 COGX

157-2466 31

9 JUL 29 1965

6 AUG 4 1965

C. Phillips

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 8/2/65

FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (157-1074) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP182/ff

Re Bureau airtel to New Orleans, Etal, dated
7/19/65.

On 7/16/65, ██████████ was contacted by SAs ██████████ and ██████████ concerning investigation on another matter. During the conversation, ██████████ was asked if he was familiar with captioned group, and he replied that he was. He stated that captioned group has on occasion in the past worked with CORE. They are a group of normally local businessmen who participate in picket lines and protest marches in a non-violent manner. If violence breaks out, this group combats violence with violence. They will attack local white residences just as hate groups and klans will attack Negro residences. He added that they have most noticeably been active in Louisiana and that he has been contacted by a representative of the group who was inquiring to determine if they were needed in the North Florida area. ██████████ related that he told them they were not needed at this time in North Florida and to the best of his knowledge, there are no such groups active in the state of Fla.

b7C
b7D

On the dates indicated the following persons were contacted by SA ██████████ and advised they had no information concerning the existence of a group of captioned organization being in existence in the Florida area:

On 7/23/65, ██████████
██████████ Tallahassee, Fla.;

On 7/27/65, ██████████
Quincy, Fla.;

On 7/27/65, ██████████
Quincy, Fla.

REC-50

157-2466-32

16 AUG 5 1965

2 - Bureau
2 - New Orleans
1 - Jacksonville
AUG 12 1965
VLW/jeb (Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
(5)

SUBJ: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

JK 157-1074

On the contact, all of the above persons advised that should they obtain any information concerning captioned organization they would immediately notify the FBI.

On 7/26/65, [REDACTED] contacted SA [REDACTED] concerning [REDACTED] another matter and during the course of this contact advised that there had been quite a bit of talk recently concerning the organization of a group of the Deacons of Defense and Justice possibly in Jefferson and Madison Counties in North Florida. He stated, however, that he was discouraging the organization of this group adding that he did not feel they were needed and would serve no useful purpose in North Florida at this time. He stated that to the best of his knowledge there is no such group currently operating in the state of Fla., and no formative steps being taken in an attempt to organize such a group.

In view of the fact there appears to be no such group currently active in the North Florida area, this matter is being considered RUC and should any information come to the attention of the Jacksonville Office concerning this group it will immediately be made known to the Bureau and New Orleans.

F B I

Date: 8/4/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTELAIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

"CHANGED"DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

RM

Title changed to reflect correct name of
organization as determined through investigation
Jonesboro, Louisiana.Enclosed for San Francisco are two photostatic
copies of the Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of
Defense and Justice, Inc.Informationb7C
b7D

3- Bureau
 2- Birmingham
 2- Charlotte
 2- Jackson
 2- Jacksonville
 2- Miami
 2- San Francisco (Enc.-2)
 2- Savannah
 2- New Orleans

EX. # 107

REC-41

MCT-24

157-2466 33

AUG 22 1965

RAH:sms
(19)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP/Beff

C. C. WICK

M. STEPHEN CORCORAN
Per

33 AUG 201965

Approved _____ Sent _____

Special Agent in Charge _____

NO 157-3290/sms

For the information of San Francisco [REDACTED] further stated that THOMAS assumed Vice Presidency of the Deacons of Defense and Justice when the application for charter was initiated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THOMAS was to be figurehead only but assumed more power than originally anticipated. THOMAS [REDACTED] began making public statements to the effect that the Deacons of Defense and Justice advocate the use of violence and that they have sources for automatic weapons in Houston, Texas, and Chicago, Illinois. b7C b7D

According to [REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice of Jonesboro is entirely a Negro organization with branches in Bogalusa and Houma, Louisiana. Their efforts have been directed toward peaceful activity in the area of civic improvement to gain recognition, and they advocate violence as a defensive measure only.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED]

Name [REDACTED]
Race [REDACTED]
Sex [REDACTED]
Date of Birth [REDACTED]
Place of Birth [REDACTED]
Height [REDACTED]
Weight [REDACTED]
Eyes [REDACTED]
Hair [REDACTED]

Negro [REDACTED]
Male [REDACTED]

S. S. N. [REDACTED]

CAL. P

ILL

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11 NO 157-3290/sms
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Relatives

Residence

Social Security #
Military Service

Employment

LEADS

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1) Through [REDACTED] locate [REDACTED] and interview him in an effort to determine in detail the objections of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and how these objections are to be obtained, with particular emphasis on public use of firearms, potential for violence, any subversive and/or outside influence and whether patrol and guards have been utilized and under what conditions.

2) Develop all information concerning the allegation [REDACTED] that this group has contact in Chicago and Houston for the acquisition of automatic weapons.

3) Determine [REDACTED] activities in the San Francisco area and identify any groups or organizations with which he is affiliated

LA

b7C

b7C

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10 NO 157-3290/sms
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12 4) Determine [REDACTED] itinerary and approximate
13 date of return to Jonesboro, Louisiana.
14

15 5) Attempt to determine through interview [REDACTED]
16 source of income.
17

18 It should be noted by San Francisco that the Bureau
19 [REDACTED] by airtel dated 2/26/65, has instructed that through
20 interviews of all members of the Deacons of Defense and
21 Justice, Inc. that efforts should be made to develop sources
22 relative to the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and be
23 alert to discourage illegal arming and illegal acts by this
24 group. The identity of [REDACTED] should not be disclosed b7C
25 [REDACTED] b7D
26 should not be discussed.
27

SAC, Los Angeles (157-1184)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8/17/65

Director, FBI (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. B. P. Murphy
1 - Mr. Martin

DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SPI get/fv 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11. 1-2. 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

ReLAlet and letterhead memorandum (LHM) 8/5/65,
copies to Atlanta, captioned "Cominfil, SNCC"; and Los Angeles
airtel and LHM 6/15/65 captioned "Deacons for Defense and
Justice," copies to New Orleans. Enclosed for the information
of New Orleans is one copy of referenced letter and LHM, 8/5/65.

Rairtel sets forth information that Charles Sims of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Bogalusa, Louisiana, was in Los Angeles in June, 1965, and appeared on the Louis Lomax television program on 6/13/65. News articles concerning the Deacons appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" of 6/13/65. The Deacons is an all-Negro organization formed for the claimed purpose of self-protection against Klan violence. Its members are encouraged to carry arms, and during recent demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana, Deacons were observed carrying walkie-talkies.

1 - Atlanta
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enclosures - 2)

JLM:bp ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
(8) HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT *REC-10*
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

10 Net 10.50
10 Room 10.50
74 AUG 18 1955 MAIL ROOM

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

19 AUG 16 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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6 Letter to SAC, Los Angeles
7
8 Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
9 AND JUSTICE
10 157-2466

CONFIDENTIAL

b1

(C)

F B I

Date: 8/9/65

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via ATRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-NEW) (P)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RACIAL MATTERS

In the August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, daily, San Antonio, Texas, newspaper an article appeared stating that MARK KLEIN, a Cornell University student is responsible for the formation of captioned group in Austin, Texas, the purpose of which is to aid the "Deacons for Defense and Justice." KLEIN described the "Deacons" as "an armed Negro self-defense group."

ALBANY

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK

LEADS ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gcl/jr

Also advise San Antonio Division any information of value regarding subject available in files of Albany Division.

REC-54

MCT-45

14 AUG 11 1965

3 - Bureau
2 - Albany
2 - Baltimore
3 - San Antonio (157-NEW)
(1 - 157-310)
JJC / jb
(10)

Approved C. C. WICK
57 AUG 19 1965
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 8:30 AM 1965 M Per

INVESTED

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10 SA 157-NEW

11
12 BALTIMORE

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14 AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

15
16 Will advise San Antonio any information available
17 regarding [REDACTED]

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9 SAC, San Antonio

10 8/16/65

11 1 - Mr. Martin

12 Director, FBI (157-2466)

13
14 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
15 RACIAL MATTERS

16 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
17 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
18 DATE 7-17-80 BY SP/861/fx

19 ReSairtel 8/9/65 captioned "The Committee to Aid
20 the Deacons," with copies to Albany and Baltimore; Buairtel
21 to New Orleans 7/19/65.

22 Enclosed for New Orleans is a Xerox copy of referenced
23 San Antonio airtel.

24 Enclosed for San Antonio, Baltimore and Albany is a
25 Xerox copy of referenced Bureau airtel 7/19/65 and a Xerox
26 copy of a "Wall Street Journal" article 7/12/65 concerning
27 captioned organization.

28 San Antonio should promptly submit letterhead
29 memorandum (LHM), with copies to New Orleans, regarding attempts
30 to form a committee to aid the Deacons of Defense and Justice
31 in Austin, Texas, as set forth in reairtel 8/9/65. Local
32 dissemination should be made to Secret Service and the military
33 intelligence.

34 Upon receipt of background data concerning [REDACTED]
35 and further information regarding attempts to organize the
36 Deacons in Austin, Texas, San Antonio should consider inter-
37 view [REDACTED] A search of Bureau indices will be made upon
38 receipt of [REDACTED]

39 Enclosures (2)

40 EX-100

41 2 - Albany - Enclosures (2)
42 2 - Baltimore - Enclosures (2)
43 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) - Enclosure

44 REC 27

45 157-2466-36

46 NOTE:

47 19 AUG 16 1965

48 San Antonio has furnished information concerning
49 attempts, by Mark Klein of Cornell University, to organize
50 a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Austin,
51 Texas.

52 The Deacons is an all-Negro organization formed
53 in Louisiana as protection against Klan violence. Leads are b7C
54 outstanding at Baltimore and Albany [REDACTED]

55 JLM:deh

56 (10)

57 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

58 55 AUG 19 1965

59 MAILED 8

60 AUG 13 1965

61 COMPLETED

62 B JMW

1 RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN
2 JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
3 HARRY F. COLD BYRD, VA.
4 STUART BYMINGHAM, MO.
5 HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
6 SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.
7 STROM THURMOND, S.C.
8 CLAIR ENGLE, CALIF.
9 HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
10 ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
11 STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO
12 DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII
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JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
HARRY F. COLD BYRD, VA.
STUART BYMINGHAM, MO.
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.
STROM THURMOND, S.C.
CLAIR ENGLE, CALIF.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO
DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII
HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

August 11, 1965

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It will be greatly appreciated if you
will give your careful study and attention
to the enclosed and let me have a full report
in duplicate.

Kindly return the enclosure with your
reply.

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis.

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS:b
Enclosure
Letter and enclosure of
[REDACTED]
Jackson, Mississippi

REC 1

157-2466-37

b7C

EX 105

5 AUG 12 1965

ENCLOSURE

See

ACK 8-13-65 3 yrs. 1. 8-13-65

0111-1-1

Original [REDACTED]

7/17/65
CORRESPONDENCE

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12 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



13 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
14 **b7C**
15 **b7C**

16 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 17

18 JACKSON
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25 August 2, 1965
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30 WASHINGTON OFFICE
31 **SEARCHED**
32 **INDEXED** 8-1965
33 **FILED**
34 JOHN STENNIS

35 Honorable John Stennis
36 Senator, State of Mississippi
37 Senate Office Building
38 Washington, D. C.
39
40

41 Dear Senator Stennis:

42 During the past several weeks in many national publications
43 an organization known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice has
44 received quite a bit of publicity. In both a recent issue of LIFE
45 Magazine and NEWSWEEK, there have been references to the use
46 of automatic weapons, grenades and mortars. I believe that such
47 weapons in the hands of ordinary citizens without a proper licensing
48 of the individual and the weapon is illegal. My question to you is:
49 can you find out from the FBI if they are aware of these statements
50 and if all of this has been checked out to the letter of the law?

51 You have certainly been getting good publicity in these parts
52 and I think that the whole nation is most appreciative of your fine
53 efforts. The next time you are home we certainly hope that we
54 will have the opportunity of visiting with you.

55 With kindest personal regards, I am

56 Sincerely yours,

57 **b7C**

58 **b7C**
59 ENCL/ACTIRE
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101 151-2466-37

August 13, 1965.

REC 1 157-2466-39

EX 105

Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

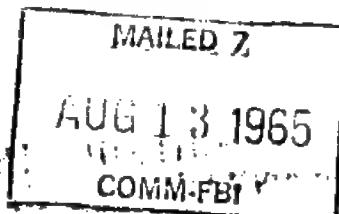
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1/SL/fg

I received your letter of August 11th
enclosing a communication from State Representative
[REDACTED] concerning the Deacons for Defense and
Justice.

b7C While I certainly would like to be of
service to [REDACTED], information contained in the
files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in
accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice.
He may be assured, however, that the FBI is ever aware
of its responsibilities in the internal security and civil
rights fields, and whenever a violation of a law within
our jurisdiction occurs, we will make every effort to
continue to discharge our obligations with the highest
degree of thoroughness, dispatch and objectivity.

In response to your request, I am returning
the material you forwarded.

Sincerely yours,
Edgar Hoover



Enclosures (2)
1 - New Orleans - Enclosures (2)
1 - Jackson - Enclosures (2)
(see note next page)

DTP:rsp (6)

AUG 24 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

AUG 13 3 57 PM '65

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11 Honorable John Stennis
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NOTE: Senator Stennis is on the Special Correspondents' List. [REDACTED] is not identifiable in Bufiles. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation regarding Deacons for Defense and Justice to determine its activities and leadership. It is a Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas as apparently its spokesman. He has advised Negroes that they should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist Negroes when being arrested. Fees and dues of the group are used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature.

F B I

Date: 8/17/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (157-New)
SUBJECT: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

Re SA airtel, dated 8/9/65.

Baltimore indices are negative on [REDACTED] b7C

③ - Bureau
2 - San Antonio
1 - Baltimore
MEG:ers
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-17-80 BY SP1 gal/jr

REC 45

157-2466-39

EX-103

14 AUG 18 1965

Approved: *[Signature]* *RG*
53 AUG 2 1965 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

REC 45
EX-103
157-2466-39
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Hennes
Miss Gandy

F B I

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: 8/12/65

(Type in plaintext or code) INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
(Priority) OTHERWISE

AIRTEL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP186/47-7-7-26

REASON - FCIM 11-1-2 7-26-26

DATE OF REVIEW 8-12-65 5-27-79

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, DETROIT (157-new) (P)
APPEARANCE OF ROBERT HICKS,
VICE-PRESIDENT, BOGALUSA (LA.)
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
SPONSORED BY GROUP ON ADVANCED
LEADERSHIP (GOAL), 8/22/65,
DETROIT, MICH.
RACIAL MATTERS

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Office.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2 and two copies being furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich.

This matter will be followed and further letterhead memoranda submitted after appearance of HICKS.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
4 - Detroit

REC-32

157-2466-40

EX 105

10 AUG 19 1965

TPD:sal
(9)

1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

(c) b1

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SDC, NERB;
ELPT: ISD, CRD, ~~REC-32~~

DATE FORW: *Get fast*

HOW FORW: *RIF*

BY: *SLB:sl*

1cc & cc LHM

WICR 808 RB

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
MIND FILE
M-Per
C-10
P-115

Approved

6 26 1965

Special Agent in Charge

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Detroit PD and the Michigan State Police are aware of
the contents in the LHM.

The LHM is being classified "Confidential", inasmuch as
information furnished by sources could reasonably result
in the identification of confidential informants of
continuing value and compromise effectiveness thereof.

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CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply Please Refer to

Detroit, Michigan
August 12, 1965

13 Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
14 Vice-President, Bogalusa (Louisiana)
15 Deacons for Defense and Justice
16 Sponsored by Group on Advanced
17 Leadership (GOAL), August 22, 1965,
18 Detroit, Michigan
19 [REDACTED]

b1

20 [REDACTED] b1
21 that Robert (C)
22 Hicks, Vice-President of the Bogalusa (Louisiana) Deacons
23 for Defense and Justice, will speak at Detroit, Michigan,
24 on Sunday, August 22, 1965, at a freedom dinner sponsored
25 by GOAL. According to this source, the Deacons for Defense
26 and Justice is a rifle club which was recently organized
27 in the Bogalusa, Louisiana, area, the membership of which
28 is composed entirely of Negroes and the purpose of which
29 is to protect civil rights workers in that area.
30

31 [REDACTED] b1
32 that the purpose of the affair (C)
33 is to raise funds and to honor Mr. Hicks, the funds raised
34 allegedly to be utilized by Mr. Hicks and the Bogalusa
35 Voters League in connection with their activities in
36 Louisiana.

37 The GOAL was filed as a non-profit
38 corporation with the Michigan Corporation
39 and Securities Commission on April 19,
40 1962, with Certificate Number 112493.
41 The purpose or purposes for which the
42 corporation was formed are as follows:
43

44 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
45 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
46 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
47 OTHERWISE

48 1. To promote the educational, social
49 and economic interests of the total
50 community.

51 2. To purchase, own, hold, rent, lease,
52 mortgage, sell, convey and otherwise
53 lawfully acquire, hold and dispose
54 of real and personal property or any
55 interest therein, as may be necessary
56 or convenient to carry into effect
57 the objects of this corporation.

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8 Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
9 Sponsored by GOAL, 8/22/65

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12 3. To solicit, sell or give memberships.
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14 4. To solicit and/or receive donations
15 and gifts ✓

16
17 RICHARD BULLOCK HENRY, President, was shown
18 as the first Resident Agent. The corporation,
19 at the time of incorporation, owned no real
20 estate but claimed to have \$1,000.00 in cash.

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34 This document contains neither recommendations
35 nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the
36 FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents
37 are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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(COPIES CONTINUED)

1 - ICG, New Orleans, Louisiana
1 - Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana
1 - Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana
4 - New Orleans (157-3290)

AT HOMER, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice in order to be aware of activities of that organization in that area of Louisiana.

b7C
b7D

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will re-contact [REDACTED] and obtain a copy of the by-laws of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice in order to be aware of any additional chapters authorized by the Deacons of Defense and Justice in any other area of Louisiana or in any other state.

b1

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Copies of this report are being furnished to listed offices for information inasmuch as there is a possibility that additional investigation will be requested by these offices.

B
(COVER PAGE)

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15 Copies are being furnished to ICG, Secret Service,
16 and Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana, in
17 view of their interest in this organization.
18

19 It is noted that the date of typing of the FD-302's
20 in this report has been delayed which is due to the fact that
21 rough draft inserts were submitted for incorporation into
22 this report.
23

24 The following interviews with [REDACTED] and b7C
25 [REDACTED] b7D are being set forth on the administrative pages
26 inasmuch as they specifically requested that their information
27 be kept confidential.
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - ICG, New Orleans, Louisiana
 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana
 1 - Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana

Copy to:

Report of:

SA

b7C

Office:

NEW ORLEANS

Date:

August 17, 1965

Field Office File No.:

New Orleans 157-3290

Bureau File No.:

157-2466

Title:

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character:

RACIAL MATTERS

Deacons of Defense and Justice formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, during the summer of 1964, following incidents involving racial activities which incidents created tension in the area. Organization formed by Negro leaders in Jonesboro for the announced purpose of protecting Negroes and whites from illegal acts and from acts designed to terrorize the Negro community. Organization chartered with main headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana. Associate chapters at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, and inquiries received from other groups concerning movement but no action taken to approve additional chapters. [REDACTED] of Deacons of Defense and Justice assert that the organization is a defensive group with no intention to commit or encourage any offensive acts. [REDACTED] of organization denied purchase of firearms for the group and further denied knowledge of any source of contacts for this purpose. [REDACTED] of Deacons of Defense and Justice disclaims any connection with or influence by subversive elements. Interviews with [REDACTED]

*b7C
b7D*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & LIF. BY SP1826/fi 7-17-80
REASON - FUM 11. 1-2-4.20 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

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at Jonesboro, Louisiana, set forth. Identity of some leaders and members of Deacons of Defense and Justice at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, set forth. No information developed to indicate Deacons of Defense and Justice have automatic weapons or hand grenades.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE NO. |
|--|----------|
| Jonesboro Chapter Deacons of Defense and Justice | 4 - 35 |
| Bogalusa Chapter Deacons of Defense and Justice | 36 - 44 |
| Homer Chapter Deacons of Defense and Justice | 45 - 47 |
| Miscellaneous | 48 - 49 |
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17 DETAILS:

18 This investigation was predicated upon receipt of
19 information from [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED] who advised on January 5, 1965,
21 that Deacons of Defense and Justice had been organized in
22 Jonesboro, Louisiana, and that its purposes were similar to
23 those of the Congress of Racial Equality, but that the
24 organization was more militant than CORE and that it would
25 be more inclined to use violence in dealing with opposition
26 encountered in Civil Rights matters. [REDACTED] stated that
27 the organization was founded to promote Negro Civil Rights.
28
29 [REDACTED]
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Date 8/17/65

14 furnished
15 the following information:
16

17 The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) was formed
 18 in the summer of 1964 at Jonesboro, Louisiana by a small group
 19 of Negroes during a period of extreme racial tension at Jones-
 20 boro, for the purpose of protection of Negro and white citizens
 21 from white extremists. He referred specifically to harassment
 22 type activities on the part of the Ku Klux Klan who had been
 23 driving caravans of cars through the Negro quarter containing
 24 hooded occupants and escorted by local law enforcement vehicles
 25. He explained that these acts terrorized the Negro residents
 26 to the extent that they felt some type of defensive measures
 27 were necessary to protect their homes and families. According-
 28 ly a group of approximately 10 to 15 responsible Negro citizens
 29 met and formed the DDJ naming the following officers:

30 PERCY LEE BRADFORD, President; EARNEST THOMAS, Vice
 31 President; CHARLEY LEE WHITE, Financial Secretary; COSETTA
 32 JACKSON, Treasurer.

33 ^{b5} The group sought and obtained a charter through the
 34 Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana
 35 which charter was issued in March, 1964. [REDACTED]
 36 The purposes of the organization, other than the defense against
 37 harassment, are to promote responsible leadership and educate
 38 people to the duties and obligations of good citizenship in the
 39 community. Other objectives of the DDJ include equal rights for
 40 all and elimination of discrimination and violence. [REDACTED]
 41 was hopeful that the objectives of the organization could be
 42 derived through discussions with city officials and other inter-
 43 ested parties. [REDACTED] stated emphatically that the DDJ is a
 44 defensive organization with no intentions of instituting vio-
 45 lence or offensive action of any type in seeking its objectives.
 46 He further stated applicants for membership must be American
 47 citizens, age 21 or over and approved by the membership.

CONFIDENTIAL

56 8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # 157-3290
 57

58 SA [REDACTED] and b7C
 59 SA [REDACTED] /cem

Date dictated 8/4/65

12 NO 157-3290/cem

13 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16 Individuals of poor reputation, troublemakers and the like are
17 not accepted. Group meetings are normally held once a week
18 at various homes or meeting places in the Negro community.

20 With regard to patrols, [redacted] stated no assignments
21 are made to accompany any type of demonstration, however, quite
22 often some of the members of the DDJ are present as spectators
23 at such activities just as any other citizen might be.

25 [redacted] stated currently there are approximately 25
26 to 35 members of the DDJ who are considered inactive due to no
27 payment of dues and other causes. He stated voting privileges
28 are extended to active members only. The initiation fee is \$1
29 and the monthly dues are \$2. [redacted] furnished the following
30 list of members who are currently active in the Jonesboro,
31 Louisiana chapter:

32 MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

42 [redacted] stated the Jonesboro group maintains no
43 official office.

49 [redacted] stated the organization has no application
50 form for use by prospective members.

- 5 -

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17 [REDACTED] advised that similar DDJ groups have been
18 formed in Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana which were granted
19 certificates by the parent Jonesboro organization. The certif-
20 icates grant authority for those groups to use the name DDJ
21 and operate under the provisions of the charter granted the
22 Jonesboro group. [REDACTED] stated the parent group furnishes
23 advice and assistance concerning policy to those chapters.
24 He stated no other groups have been authorized to use the name
25 DDJ in Louisiana or any other state although he has received
26 inquiries concerning the formation of similar groups at Monroe,
27 Ferriday and New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated careful consid-
28 eration is given to granting certificates to other groups in
29 order to insure that the policies and objectives of the parent
30 group are adhered to. [REDACTED] stated that CHARLIE SIMMS is
31 the President of the Bogalusa Chapter and that CHARLES DODD
32 is President of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the DDJ. He
33 stated he did not know the current membership of the Bogalusa
34 and Homer groups.

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

b7C
b7D

35 [REDACTED] was questioned concerning statements made
36 by EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President of the Jonesboro DDJ and
37 others, which have appeared in national periodicals, concern-
38 ing the organization. [REDACTED] stated much of the information
39 attributed to these people is false and exaggerated particular-
40 in reference to alleged secrecy of the organization, purchase
41 of firearms in Chicago and Houston, the number of chapters
42 which have been created and other statements indicating the DDJ
43 has offensive motives. He stated he had not seen any of the
44 publications referring to the DDJ or read any of the statements
45 attributed to THOMAS and other DDJ leaders.

46 [REDACTED] stated he is very concerned about
47 the effects that irresponsible publicity might have on DDJ and
48 he plans to make every effort to correct the situation through
49 talks with those responsible for such publicity.

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13 NO 157-3290/cem

14 4

15
16 [REDACTED] stated he believes the statements made
17 recently by THOMAS were made to exploit the DDJ for his own
18 personal publicity and financial gain. He stated THOMAS
19 is presently in California, however, he is not representing
20 the DDJ and his purpose there is unknown. [REDACTED]

21
22
23
24
25 [REDACTED] stated the Jonesboro DDJ owns eight walkie-
26 talkie.radio units which are presently distributed among the
27 membership which are to be used in the event of an emergency
28 which would require the group to assemble on short notice.
29 [REDACTED] He stated the chapter owns no other technical equipment or
30 arms.

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31
32 [REDACTED] stated there are no persons, to his
33 knowledge, in the DDJ who are sympathetic with or influenced
34 by Black Nationalist or any other subversive group.

35
36 [REDACTED] made available a blank identification card
37 which is carried by all DDJ members upon acceptance into the
38 organization. It may be noted that an official card which is
39 issued to a particular member also bears the imprint of a
40 seal which is not affixed to the card until it is issued.

41
42 [REDACTED] stated by laws for the DDJ are presently
43 under preparation and it is hoped that within a week same will
44 be submitted to the membership of the organization for approval
45 after which a copy will be made available to the FBI.

46
47 He stated the DDJ chapter at Bogalusa and Homer,
48 Louisiana, each paid a \$100 entrance fee to join the organization
49 and they are supposed to pay a sum equal to ten percent of
50 their collected monthly dues to the parent organization to defray
51 expense of supplies, etc. which are provided by the Jonesboro
52 chapter.

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5

17 [REDACTED] stated when the organization was first
18 begun, group leaders were appointed for the purpose of
19 rallying membership in the event of a racial incident. The
20 stated this practice has been abandoned and the organization
21 no longer has group leaders or similar functionaries.
22

23 It was tactfully pointed out to [redacted] that he should
24 exert his influence to discourage any arming or other illegal
25 acts on the part of DDJ members. [redacted]

Following is a description

Race
Date of birth
Place of birth
Height
Weight
Build
Complexion
Social Security

Negro

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Date

June 16, 1965

14 Corporations Division, Secretary of State, State of
15 Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, made available a true
16 and correct copy of the charter of Decons of Defense and
17 Justice, Incorporated.

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b7D~~CONFIDENTIAL~~56 On 6/11/65 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana File# NO 157-329057 SA ██████████ /dcS b7C

6/11/65

59 by _____

Date dictated _____

60 This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned
61 to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



WAIDIE O. MARTIN, JR.

I, the undersigned Secretary of State, of the State of Louisiana

DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the annexed and following is a True and
Correct copy of the Charter of

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,

A Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro,

As shown by comparison with document filed and recorded in this
Office on March 9, 1965.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand and caused the Seal of my Office
to be affixed at the City of Baton Rouge on,
June 11, 1965.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

W. O. Martin
Secretary of State

2 5/15/80
TOP SECRET

12 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
13
14 OF
15
16 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF OUACHITA

19
20 BE IT KNOWN, That on this the 5th day of the Month of
21 March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-
22
23 Five:

24 BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, in and for this Parish and
25 State, personally came and appeared the several parties of full age
26 of majority whose signatures are subscribed, who declared in the
27 presence of the undersigned competent witnesses, that availing
28 themselves of the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
29 Sections 12:101 - 12:155, they do hereby organize a nonprofit
30 corporation as defined in Revised Statute 12:101 (8) under and in
31 accordance with these articles of incorporation.

32
33 ARTICLE I. "NAME"

34 The name of this corporation is "Deacons of Defense and
35
36 Justice, Inc."

37
38 ARTICLE II. "PURPOSES"

39 This corporation is organized for the following purposes
40 and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach
41 and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority
42 groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of
43 government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train
44 and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and
45 laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the

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duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and legal means to the end that justice be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

ARTICLE III. "DURATION"

This corporation shall enjoy corporate existence for a period of ninety-nine (99) years from date hereof.

ARTICLE IV. "REGISTERED OFFICE"

The location and post office address of its registered office shall be: Amos Service Station, (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

ARTICLE V. "REGISTERED AGENTS"

The full names and post office addresses of its registered agents are:

1. Ernest Thomas, P. O. Box 472, Jonesboro, Louisiana.
2. Elmo Jacobs, P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ARTICLE VI. "THE ORGANIZATION"

This corporation

without capital stock

shares of membership. The

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

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Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

3
4
5 signed incorporators and all persons hereinafter who apply for
6
7 membership and satisfactory show that they are dedicated to the
8
9 proposition of protecting through any and all legal means those
10
11 rights granted by appropriate law to all citizens of the United
12
13 States of America and particularly members of minority groups and
14
15
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9
10 accepted as members by a majority of the members of this
11 corporation present and voting at a regular meeting.
12

13
14 ARTICLE VII. "BOARD OF DIRECTORS"
15

16 The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a
17 Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members of this corpor-
18 ation from the time of incorporation until said number is changed
19 by an amendment to the article or by-laws of this corporation and
20 the following shall constitute the first Board of Directors:
21
22

23 1. Percy Lee Bradford P. O. Box 95, Jonesboro, Louisiana
24 2. Ernest Thomas P. O. Box 492, Jonesboro, Louisiana
25 3. Charlie White P. O. Box 733, Jonesboro, Louisiana
26 4. Cosetta Jackson General Delivery, Jonesboro, Louisi-
27 5. Elmo Jacobs P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana
28

29 The qualification, term of office, manner of election,
30 compensation, powers and duties of the directors, the time and
31 place and manner of calling, giving notice and of conducting dire-
32 meetings and number of directors which shall constitute a quorum,
33 shall be proscribed by the by-laws.
34

35
36 ARTICLE VII. "POWER AND CAPACITY"
37

38 This corporation shall have the capacity to act possess-
39 by natural person and shall have authority to perform those acts
40 which are necessary and proper to accomplish the purposes express-
41 or implied in those articles or that may be incidental thereto and
42 shall have all the power, authority and capacity of a nonprofit
43 corporation as provided for by Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950
44 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
45 shall have the power and authority to receive, hold and manage
46 property in trust as provided by law, to sue and be sued in the
47 corporate name, to make and use a corporate seal, to hold, purcha-
48 lease, mortgage, sell and receive by donation or otherwise, real,
49

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